

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been finally rejected. Claim 4 has been amended. Claim 13 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-12 are pending and at issue in the present application.

Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly recite the ratio of α -starch to fibers in the skin layer. Support for the amendment of claim 4 is found in the specification at page 5, second paragraph, and in original claim 4.

This Supplemental Amendment conforms to the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.116 and is being filed concurrently with an Appeal Brief pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.192. The Supplemental Amendment is provided to expedite resolution of this case, which is under final rejection. Furthermore, the submitted claim amendment does not raise the issue of new matter, nor does the amendment raise new issues that would require a new search. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request entry of the Supplemental Amendment and favorable consideration of the Appeal Brief.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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